GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3816
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2001
DIESEL FLASH POINT
SURESH PASI

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the countries in the world have Flash Point of Diesel at more than 60oC including such neighbouring countries like Sri Lanka, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore;

(b) if so, the standard specification of diesel in India which was earlier more than 66oC and has been revised downward from time to time to the present level to include some other components into diesel and thereby increase in production of diesel; and

(c) the reasons to maintain high flash point of diesel which endangers public life and property, encourages adulteration and causes revenue loss to the exchequer?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a) No, Sir. The flash point specification of diesel in major advanced countries like USA, Canada, European Union, Japan are 38oC/55oC, 40oC, 55oC and 50oC minimum respectively.In the neighbouring countries also there is a vide variation in this specification.

(b) The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) the apex national body, which finalises the specifications for various petroleum products including diesel had first fixed the flash point of diesel at 55oC minimum in 1959 (IS:1460).It was revised in 1974 from 55oC to 38oC for taking into consideration the high requirement of diesel and the supply and demand pattern of middle distillate. The flash point was revised to 32oC minimum in 1985. In December,2000 it has been revised to 35oC minimum.

(c) The present specification of flash point of diesel at 35oC minimum is not high. This specification neither increases safety hazard nor encourages adulteration.